

## MINORITY OWNED AND LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS TASK FORCE

### MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2015 – 5:30 p.m.

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*6th Floor Council Conference Room, Council Office Building*

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#### ***Members Present***

Mayra Bayonet  
Janice Freeman  
Warren Fleming  
Julian Haffner

Herman Taylor, Chair  
Bethsaida Wong

#### ***Members Absent***

Margo Briggs  
Cherian Eapen

#### ***County Staff Present:***

Linda McMillan, County Council  
Mary Anne Paradise, County Council  
Linda Price, County Council

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Ms. Price distributed the Preliminary Recommendations and corresponding survey results from 199 respondents. Mr. Taylor said that the comments received show that the Task Force is on track with its recommendations. Ms. Price reminded members that the report must be finalized and ready to go to print on September 10, and transmitted to the Council on September 15.

The Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee worksession on the report is scheduled for October 15, 2015. Mr. Fleming and Ms. Freeman were curious about the proceedings for the GO committee, specifically if Task Force members would all be welcome to attend and speak to the report and recommendations. Chair Taylor would lead the discussions and speak on behalf of the Task Force. It would be at the discretion on the Chair for Task Force members to participate in the discussion and answer questions, which has been done before. These details will be worked out after the report is finalized.

The meeting was officially called to order by Chair Taylor at 6:04 p.m. and the minutes of August 12, 2015, were approved as corrected by all members present. The Task Force discussed the rationale for the closed session held on July 29, 2015, and Mr. Taylor stated that he was concerned about the closed session procedure. Ms. Price noted that the closed session was held at the request of the County Attorney's Office to obtain legal advice on procurement recommendations. The meeting was held in accordance with Maryland Code, General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(7). The closed session minutes of July 29, 2015 were approved as amended by all members present.

Mr. Fleming commented that the County Executive indicated he would like to meet with the group. Mr. Taylor said there would not be enough time. The meeting on September 9 is the final meeting, at which the report must be finalized.

Going back to survey, Ms. Price said the report would include a summary of the survey, with the full survey included in the appendix. Ms. Bayonet will provide Council staff with 'send and receipt' information on the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce contacts who received the message to view the Preliminary Recommendations and complete the survey. The Task Force agreed to

let the survey remain open on the website until early September. Ms. Wong suggested quantifying survey results by demographics.

The Task Force briefly discussed the findings of the Procurement Policies and Regulations (PPR) Task Force. Mr. Fleming asked if their recommendations were aligned with the Task Force recommendations. Ms. Price noted that the PPR Task Force's recommendations were focused on procurement processes and policies, which is broader than the focus of this Task Force.

The Task Force supported Ms. Wong's recommendation to add "local" to the recommendation establishing a 35% goal for MFD subcontractors. She also suggested that sub-goals be established for the different minority groups. Ms. McMillan noted that this could trigger a 2-part waiver request from prime contractors. The first waiver would be from businesses unable to find a local MFD to perform the work. The second waiver would be from prime contractors unable to find an MFD in general to perform the work. The Task Force supported the amendment.

The Task Force also discussed adding sub-goals to their recommendation to add a 50% MFD set-aside within the LSBRP program. Mr. Fleming reiterated his support to establish a preference for African-American businesses to correct disparities.

Ms. Price requested members email any remaining thoughts, comments, concerns, or ideas regarding the recommendations as soon as possible for inclusion in the draft report. The draft report will be transmitted to Task Force members to review, edit, and provide feedback before September 4.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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